

PROPOSALS

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For extending the

LIMITS

OF THE

City of EDINBURGH,_K

IMPARTIALLY CONSIDERED.

EDINBURGH:

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PROPOSALS

For erecting the

LIMITS



CITY OF EDINBURGH

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EDINBURGH

EDINBURGH

PROPOSALS

For extending the LIMITS of the
CITY of EDINBURGH

IMPARTIALLY CONSIDERED.

THAT the Plan of the Extension of the Royalty of the City of EDINBURGH, wherein the public Police of the City, as well as the Property and Privileges of so many Individuals, are greatly concerned, is a Matter of the highest Importance, cannot be denied. Important, however, as that Subject seems to be, it is hard to get Individuals to think coolly of it; swayed by Party or popular Prejudice, every one is ready to form a Judgment of it to himself, without previously considering the Particulars from which such Judgment should be made. To lay the Case impartially before the Public is the Design of this Paper. The Author is sensible

fible of his own Incapacity for such a Task ; but, if what he has offered shall provoke an abler Pen to set the Matter in a clearer Light to the Public, he shall have attained his End. And, being free from all Party Prejudice, he shall join the Side of Reason, whether it is for or against the Extension.

Having said so much for the Impartiality of the Author ; he proposes to consider,

I. The Advantages and Disadvantages that may arise from the intended Project to the public Revenue of the City of EDINBURGH.

II. The Benefit and Loss that may from thence arise to the Inhabitants of the present City.

III. The Privileges and Advantages to be acquired by the Inhabitants, who either do now, or shall hereafter have their Residence within the Limits of the New City, in case the Extension shall take place ; and the Loss they may sustain by being comprehended under such Extension.

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The public Revenue of the Town of EDINBURGH, in so far as it is now collected from the Inhabitants, consists of the following Particulars, *viz.* Annuity, Watch-money, and Impost on Liquors: Let it then be considered wherein all, or any of these Branches, shall be improved by the new Scheme: It must be admitted, that if the Royalty shall be extended, all these will be augmented in Proportion to the Number of new Inhabitants to be taken in under the Royalty: But then, if these new Inhabitants shall contribute to the Taxes of the Town of EDINBURGH, they will, no doubt, with Reason, expect the common Benefits enjoyed by their Neighbours in the Old City, *viz.* An Augmentation of Churches and Ministers, and Watchmen or City-guard. Their Streets must also be paved and lighted: Where then will be the Advantage to the Revenue of the Town? Let us suppose, for once, that this New City shall create an Addition of one Half of the Inhabitants of the present City; what shall be the Consequence? These Inhabitants

habitants will require a proportional Addition to the present Number of Churches, and these Churches must be provided with Ministers, who must all be endowed with Stipends. It is true, the additional Annuity to be levied on these Inhabitants ought to be equivalent to the Stipends of the new Ministers; but who is to defray the Expence of building the Churches? This must naturally fall to be done by the good Town: So that the public Revenue of the City, in place of receiiving any Benefit from this Addition to the Funds, must be considerably diminished by the Expence of building so many new Churches.

The Watch-money will likewise be expended in the same Manner; for, in proportion to the Increase of the Number of Inhabitants, the Number of the City-guard must be augmented: And indeed these must be increased in a greater Proportion; because, by the Manner in which the new City is proposed to be built, by giving every Person a single House, the Space occupied by the Inhabitants must
increase

increase in a much higher Proportion to the Number of People.

The Impost on Liquors seems then to be the only Fund remaining to be considered. The Extent of this Duty may be supposed £. 1000 Sterling *per Annum*, tho' it is believed of late Years it has not much exceeded one half of that Sum; let it then be supposed, that by an Increase of one half of the present Inhabitants, that Branch of the Revenue shall, in place of £. 1000 *per Annum*, arise to £. 1500, which is much more than can reasonably be expected; because it cannot be supposed, that every one of the Inhabitants of the New City shall consume Wine, and other foreign Liquors subject to the Town's Impost: Nor can it well be supposed, that the College of Justice will give up their Freedom from that Tax. Let it, however, be for once supposed, that this Branch of the Revenue shall be increased £. 500 annually; will that Sum be able to defray the Expence of paving and lighting the new Bridge and Streets? It has already been observed, that
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by the intended Construction of the New City, every one Family is to occupy a House; the Streets of consequence ought to be made wide and open : Some of these Streets are to be made the great Thorowfares from the North and West Sides of the Town, which must necessarily increase the Expences of paving, lighting, and repairing these Streets. The Advantage to the public Revenue upon this Branch must therefore be very little, or nothing: And if to this is added the additional Expence of Collection, it is believed this Branch of the Revenue will rather be diminished than increased. And now we are upon this Article, it is to be considered in what Manner the Duty or Impost on Liquors shall be levied in the New City: At present, the Duty is paid by the Consumers, and the Liquor is not allowed to pass the Gates of the City without a Warrant. But as the New City is not intended to be a walled Town, that Method will not answer the levying the Duty in that Part; the whole must therefore be levied at the Port of *Leith*, and the Merchant must either pay down the Duty upon Importation,

portation, or must grant Bond for it, and rely upon his getting a Drawback from the Town for such Part of his Liquors as shall not be consumed within the Liberties. This will not only be an Embarrassment upon the Trade of the fair Merchant, but must necessarily open a Door for Frauds in the Revenue.

The Duty of two Pennies on the Pint of small Beer is already extended as far as the proposed Limits of the New City; and therefore that Branch of the Revenue can suffer no Alteration by the intended Scheme.

Having thus stated the Advantages and Disadvantages arising to the public Revenue of the City, from the proposed Plan of Extension; we shall next consider the Effect it may have upon the private Estates of the Inhabitants of the Old City.

The Advantages proposed to the Inhabitants are, a free Communication to the North and West of the City, by the Erection of a

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Bridge

Bridge over the North Loch; the Consequences attending such Communication by the Increase of the Inhabitants, and a Relief in Part of their public Taxes.

It was lately declared, by the Lord Provost of the City, in a very numerous Meeting of the Free-holders of the whole Town, That the Trustees appointed by the Act of Parliament for carrying on the public Buildings, have already resolved to build the Bridge, whether the Extension of the Royalty shall be obtained or not : So that the Advantages arising from the Bridge are quite independent on the Extension of the Royalty. The only Subject therefore now to be considered, on that Head, is the Relief that will arise from the Extension, to the Inhabitants of the Old City, of Part of their public Taxes.

It has already been observed, that the Taxes of Annuity, Watch-money and Impost on Liquors must necessarily be expended upon the Police of the New City; of these therefore, no Relief can be expected by the

Inhabitants

Inhabitants of the Old City: The Cefs then only remains to be the Subject of Relief; it is therefore to be considered how that Matter stands.

The whole Cefs or Land-Tax of Scotland is at present levied from the Land and Royal Burrows by a certain Proportion: Each County must pay a certain Share of the Tax, payable out of the Land, without suffering any Variation in the Proportion in any one Year: But it is otherwise in the Burrows; because tho' the Proportion payable by the whole Burrows is fixed and determined; yet the Convention of Royal Burrows have, at their annual Meetings, a Power to ascertain and vary the Proportion of the Cefs payable by each particular Burrow: And accordingly, when a Town increases in Riches and Trade, a greater Share of the Cefs is laid upon that Town than formerly, in order to relieve other Towns who may have suffered by the Decay of Inhabitants and Trade. What then must be the Consequence of this pompous Extension of the City of EDINBURGH?

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Will it not be natural for the other Burrows to endeavour to obtain an Alteration of the Stent-Roll, and to lay a greater Share of the Cess upon the City of EDINBURGH; which may be supposed to be very well able to bear it, if the Increase of its Inhabitants shall answer the warm Expectations of the Projectors of the present Plan? And may not that Proportion be larger even than the real Increase of Inhabitants? In which Case, the Inhabitants of the Old City would, in Place of a Relief of a Part of their Cess, be made liable to an additional Burden; when at the the same time, the Proprietors of the Houses may suffer a very considerable Diminution of their Rents.

The Advantages and Disadvantages arising to the Inhabitants of the New City, are next to be considered.

The Inhabitants of the new City are, by the Proposals, not to be admitted to the Privileges

privileges of the old City. The Advantages, therefore, which will arise to them, independent of the Bridge which is to be built whether the Extension shall take Place or not, are the Convenience of Churches, well paved and well lighted Streets, and a Defence of their Houses and Persons, by an Addition to the City-guard. But then, on the other Hand, let us consider what valuable Consideration is to be paid for all these Benefits: The poor Artificer, who can at present work in his own Cottage, upon Payment of a small Rent to his Landlord, must pay twenty Shillings for his Freedom, otherwise must remove from his Habitation: The Land-holder, who now pays a Proportion of the Cess of the County, must then pay an additional Cess for every House he shall build upon his Land after the Date of the Act; when, at the same Time, the Houses in his Neighbourhood, built prior to that Period, shall be free of that Tax; and the Land-holder, before he can either build, or pull down a House standing upon his own Land, must apply to the Trustees for a Liberty to do it: The Nobleman or Gentleman,

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who resides within the Limits of the new City, must pay a considerable additional Impost upon his Wines and other foreign Liquors ; a Tax which he grudges more than all the others he pays, as it comes immediately out of his own Pocket ; and he naturally looks upon it as a Hardship for him, who spends his Money within the City, and enjoys no Privilege by such Residence, to pay a Tax for the Support of the City-Revenue ; and all the Inhabitants of this new City must be subjected to the Payment of Annuity. If these Things are duly considered, it is believed the Disadvantages arising from these Impositions, which must take place immediately upon the Extension of the Royalty, will have much greater Influence to deter People from building within the new Limits, than any future Prospect of enjoying the Benefits before mentioned, which will not take Place for a distant Number of Years.

Upon the whole, It does not yet appear, that any great Advantage will arise from the proposed Scheme, either to the public Revenue of the City, or to Individuals. And there

is one other Inconvenience which may happen to the City, not yet mentioned: If, from the sanguine Expectations of the Gentlemen who have the Government of the City, of the great Increase of Revenue to arise from the Extension, they shall be induced to lay out large Sums in building the Bridge, paving the Streets, and other necessary Works in the New City, and the Funds shall fall short of their Expectations, it will greatly add to the Debt of the City, and thereby considerably increase the annual Expence, by Payment of a large Sum of Interest.

N. B. Since this Paper was put to the Press, the Heritors of the County of EDINBURGH have, at a very numerous Meeting, declared their Disapprobation of the proposed Scheme of Extension.

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is one of the inconveniences which may happen to the City, not yet mentioned: It is from the language of the Gentlemen who have the Government of the City, of the great Incapacity of Revenue to arise from the Extension, they shall be induced to lay out large Sums in building the Bridge, giving the Streets, and other necessary Works in the New City, and the Funds will fall short of their Expectations, it will thereby add to the Debt of the City, and considerably increase the annual Payment of a large Sum of Interest.



Mr. B. Since this Paper was put to the Press, the Members of the County of Edinburgh have, at a very numerous Meeting, declared their Disapprobation of the proposed Scheme of Extension.

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